

REMARKS

Claims 2-7, 9-12, and 15-28 are pending in the application after this amendment. The amendment, cancellation, and/or addition of claims is not to be considered in any way an indication of applicant's position on the merits of the amended, cancelled, and/or added claims.

The Examiner has indicated that previously pending claims 2-5 and 9-12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the elements of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claims 2-5 to incorporate the elements of claim 1 therein, and has cancelled claim 1. Applicant has amended claims 9-12 to incorporate the elements of claim 8 therein, and has cancelled claim 8. Applicant has made these amendments for the purpose of furthering prosecution, but reserves the right to file continuation applications. Based on these amendments, applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-5 and 9-12 are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 6 and 7 are apparatus claims dependent directly or indirectly from independent claim 2. Claims 15 and 16 are apparatus claims dependent directly or indirectly from independent claim 3. Claims 17 and 18 are apparatus claims dependent directly or indirectly from independent claim 4. Claims 19 and 20 are apparatus claims dependent directly or indirectly from independent claim 5. Claims 21 and 22 are apparatus claims dependent directly or indirectly from independent claim 9. Claims 23 and 24 are apparatus claims dependent directly or indirectly from independent claim 10. Claims 25 and 26 are apparatus claims dependent directly or indirectly from independent claim 11. Claims 27 and 28 are apparatus claims dependent directly or indirectly from independent claim 12. The dependent claims are patentable for the same reasons as were discussed for their respective independent claims, and further in light of the further limitations contained within the dependent claims.

The Examiner rejected claim 6 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that applicant regards as the invention. More specifically, the Examiner states that the

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parenthetical phrases makes it unclear as to whether the parenthetical information is being positively recited as part of the claimed invention. Applicant has amended claim 6 to remove the parenthetical phrases. Applicant's amendments to claim 6 should overcome the Examiner's rejections under 35 USC §112.

Applicant also requests the second page of the November 25, 2003 Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) be acknowledged by the Examiner. The Examiner returned the second of the IDS along with the July 12, 2005 Office action, but did not initial the listed references. Applicant respectfully requests that the references set forth on the second page of the IDS be considered and acknowledged.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the currently pending claims are patentable. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to reexamine the application, to allow the claims, and to pass the application on promptly to issue.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 50-2115 for any additional fees that may be required.

Respectfully submitted,



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